



**TOWN OF CANTON**  
FOUR MARKET STREET  
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**OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN**

March 7, 2011

Testimony of Richard J. Barlow, First Selectman, Town of Canton  
on Raised Bill No. 1141 An Act Concerning Net Metering

The Town of Canton supports Raised Bill No. 1141 with the changes as noted. Virtual net metering as proposed in this bill would promote the generation of clean Class 1 renewable energy by customers by providing credits for use of that energy at other locations owned by the generator. This bill would, for example, allow municipalities to generate up to two megawatts for energy by solar, wind fuel cell, methane gas from landfills, ocean thermal power, wave or tidal power, low emission advanced renewable energy conversion technologies, a run-of-the river hydropower facility or sustainable biomass facility and use the energy generated to offset the municipalities energy needs for town offices, schools, community centers, libraries, public works facilities and sewage treatment plants. This, in turn, will reduce costs to local taxpayers. Without the increased benefits provided by virtual net metering many of these projects would not be economically feasible.

The Towns of Canton, Avon and Burlington are currently evaluating the redevelopment of two hydropower facilities on the Farmington River would qualify for the virtual net metering benefits provided by this bill. The Town of Canton proposes that in the definition of a "Virtual net metering facility" in lines 423 through 329 that municipalities be exempted from the limitation that not more than five beneficial accounts be allowed. It is also recommended that the language be clarified that a municipal customer may have more than one virtual net metering facility and that those facilities may be tied to the same beneficial accounts.

Sincerely Yours,

Richard J. Barlow  
First Selectman